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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

 A method for automatically naming hosts in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:

receiving unique identifiers (UIDs) from multiple hosts in communication with a cluster controller;

in response to receiving the UIDs, causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals;

receiving user input from a first host among the multiple hosts;

in response to receiving the user input from the first host, associating a first host name with the UID for the first host:

after associating the first host name with the UID for the first host, causing the first host to produce a completion signal;

receiving user input from a second host among the multiple hosts; and

repeating the operations of receiving replies from hosts, associating host names with UIDs, and causing hosts to produce completion signals, until each of the multiple hosts has been named, such that the user input dictates the order in which host names are assigned to the multiple hosts.

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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of associating a first host name with the UID for the first host comprises:

in response to receiving the user input from the

first host, transmitting data to the first host; and
after transmitting the data to the first host,
receiving a reply from the first host, such that the
first host name is associated with the UID for the first
host in further response to the reply.

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3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising: providing the cluster controller with a host-name index, wherein:

the operation of transmitting data to the first host comprises transmitting the host-name index to the first host:

the operation of receiving a reply from the first host comprises receiving an incremented host-name index from the first host; and

20 the operation of associating a host name with the UID for the first host comprises using the host-name index to generate the host name to be associated with the UID for the first host.

4. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

providing the cluster controller with a host-name index and a host-name root; and

providing the multiple hosts with auto-naming logic, 5 wherein:

the auto-naming logic causes the multiple hosts to transmit the UIDs to the cluster controller;

the auto-naming logic receives the index in the data from the cluster controller, increments the index, and 10 transmits the incremented index to the cluster controller in the reply; and

the operation of associating a host name with the UID for the first host comprises using the host-name root and the host-name index to generate the host name to be associated with the UID for the first host.

- The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals comprises activating light emitting diodes (LEDs) on the
 multiple hosts to indicate that the multiple hosts are ready to be named.
- The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of receiving user input from the first host comprises
 detecting that a disk has been inserted into a disk drive of the first host.

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7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the first host to produce a completion signal comprises deactivating a light emitting diode (LED) on the first host.

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8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the first host to produce a completion signal comprises producing an audible signal to indicate that the first host has been named.

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9. A program product for automatically naming hosts in a distributed data processing system, the program product comprising:

computer instructions that:

5 receive unique identifiers (UIDs) from multiple hosts in communication with a cluster controller; in response to receiving the UIDs, cause the

in response to receiving the UIDs, cause the multiple hosts to produce ready signals;

receive user input from a first host among the 10 multiple hosts;

in response to receiving the user input from the first host, associate a first host name with the UID for the first host;

after associating the first host name with the UID for the first host, cause the first host to produce a completion signal;

receive user input from a second host among the multiple hosts; and

repeat the operations of receiving replies from

20 hosts, associating host names with UIDs, and causing
hosts to produce completion signals, until each of the
multiple hosts has been named, such that the user input
dictates the order in which host names are assigned to
the multiple hosts; and

25 a computer-usable medium encoding the computer instructions.

10. The program product of Claim 8, wherein:

the computer instructions respond to the user input from the first host by transmitting data to the first host;

5 the computer instructions receive a reply from the first host; and

the computer instructions associate the first host name with the UID for the first host in further response to the reply.

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11. The program product of Claim 10, wherein the operations performed by the computer instructions further comprise:

recognizing a host-name index; and

15 transmitting the host-name index to the first host with the data, wherein:

the operation of receiving a reply from the first host comprises receiving an incremented host-name index from the first host; and

20 the operation of associating a host name with the UID for the first host comprises using the host-name index to generate the host name to be associated with the UID for the first host.

25 12. The program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer instructions cause the multiple hosts to produce ready signals by activating light emitting diodes (LEDs) on the multiple hosts to indicate that the multiple hosts are ready to be named.

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- 13. The program product of Claim 9, wherein the user input comprises signals indicating that a disk has been inserted into a disk drive of the first host.
- 5 14. The program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer instructions cause the first host to produce a completion signal by deactivating a light emitting diode (LED) on the first host.
- 10 15. The program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer instructions cause the first host to produce a completion signal by producing an audible signal to indicate that the first host has been named.

16. A data processing system for automatically naming hosts in a distributed data processing system, the data processing system comprising:

a network interface in communication with multiple

5 hosts, a processor in communication with the network
interface, data storage in communication with the
processor, and computer instructions stored in the data
storage, wherein, when the computer instructions are
executed by the processing resources, the computer

10 instructions perform operations comprising:

receiving unique identifiers (UIDs) from the multiple hosts;

in response to receiving the UIDs, causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals;

15 receiving user input from a first host among the multiple hosts;

in response to receiving the user input from the first host, associating a first host name with the UID for the first host;

after associating the first host name with the UID for the first host, causing the first host to produce a completion signal;

receiving user input from a second host among the multiple hosts; and

repeating the operations of receiving replies from hosts, associating host names with UIDs, and causing hosts to produce completion signals, until each of the multiple hosts has been named, such that the user input dictates the order in which host names are assigned to the multiple hosts.

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17. The data processing system of Claim 16, wherein the operation of associating a first host name with the UID for the first host comprises:

transmitting data to the first host; and receiving a reply from the first host, wherein the computer instructions associate the first host name with the UID for the first host in further response to the reply.

18. The data processing system of Claim 17, wherein the operations performed by the computer instructions further comprise

recognizing a host-name index; and transmitting the host-name index to the first host with the data, wherein:

the operation of receiving a reply from the first host comprises receiving an incremented host-name index from the first host; and

20 the operation of associating a host name with the UID for the first host comprises using the host-name index to generate the host name to be associated with the UID for the first host.

25 19. The data processing system of Claim 16, wherein the computer instructions cause the multiple hosts to produce ready signals by activating light emitting diodes (LEDs) on the multiple hosts to indicate that the multiple hosts are ready to be named.

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- 20. The data processing system of Claim 16, wherein the user input comprises signals indicating that a disk has been inserted into a disk drive of the first host.
- 5 21. The data processing system of Claim 16, wherein the computer instructions cause the first host to produce a completion signal by deactivating a light emitting diode (LED) on the first host.